



# NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Transportation

Improving Mobility Across California

**For further details contact:**

Terri Kasinga, PIO  
Public Affairs Office  
(909) 383-4631

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8>

**District 8**

464 West Fourth Street, Sixth Floor  
San Bernardino, CA

04-156

August 4, 2004

## STATE ROUTE 18 (THE NARROWS) WILL REOPEN ON AUGUST 16, 2004

---

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced today that State Route 18 (SR 18) will re-open on Monday August 16, 2004. The route has been closed since Christmas Day 2003 due to a heavy rainstorm caused severe damage to the roadway and slopes at several locations within a 3.7-mile stretch known as “The Narrows”.

A \$4 million emergency project has been underway since the beginning of 2004 to stabilize the slopes and repave the roadway. Damaged guard rail and drainage pipes were repaired. Steel cable netting was added on some slopes to mitigate large boulders and rocks from falling on the highway. Historical handmade chain-and-rock guardrails were preserved from the slide and have been reinstalled along the shoulder of SR 18.

The residents of the mountain communities in Running Springs, Crestline, and Lake Arrowhead have been very patient while Caltrans reconstructed the highway. “Our focus and energy was to open the ‘Narrows’ to traffic once all the repairs were completed,” stated Anne Mayer, Director for Caltrans District 8.

Caltrans wants to thank the mountain area residents and businesses for their patience and understanding. More than 9,000 daily commuters who travel this stretch of highway will save time and enjoy a more direct route as they travel to their mountain destinations.

# # # #



## **Historical Background**

The project area on SR 18 is a segment of the Rim of the World Highway, a 107-mile highway from Mormon Rocks Fire, east on SR 138 to Crestline, continuing east on SR 18 around Big Bear Lake then south on SR 38 over Onyx Summit, and back west to the Mill Creek Ranger Station. It is currently designated as a National Forest Scenic Byway since 1990, an eligible State Scenic Highway since 1963, and a San Bernardino County Scenic Highway since 1980.

The Narrows section of SR 18 was determined eligible as an historic landscape district for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Officer in October 2001. The Rim of the World Highway District was determined eligible based on its association with important events in the history of recreation, tourism and transportation in the area; and as an outstanding Depression-era example of design a road and its appurtenances to be compatible with the scenic and rustic character of a mountainous landscape. The Rim of the World highway and its associated highway elements represent an excellent example of scenic highway construction and highway beautification of the late 1920s and through the 1930s.

